

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 7 and 10. These sheets replace the original sheets. In detail, with respect to Figure 7, reference numerals 360, 410, and 415 have been removed. With respect to Fig. 10, reference numeral 525 has been removed and reference numeral 660 has been changed to 605.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action dated September 11, 2006. The status of the application is as follows:

- Various drawings are objected to due to minor informalities.
- The specification is objected to due to minor informalities.
- Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Watts, *et al.* (US 5,671,411).
- Claims 1-5 and 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alexander, *et al.* (US 6,177,931).
- Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Florin, *et al.* (US 5,583,560).
- Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander, *et al.* in view of Young, *et al.* (US 5,479,268).
- Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander, *et al.* in view of Young, and further in view of Allport (US 6,483,548).
- New claims 18 and 19 have been added.

The objections to the drawings and specification and the rejections of these claims are discussed below.

Objections to the Drawings

Figures 6-11 are objected to due to minor formalities. Additionally, the drawings in general are objected to for failing to include a reference numeral recited in the specification. The above amendments to the specification and the attached replacement sheets are believed to cure these informalities.

Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected due to a minor informality. The specification has been amended to cure this informality.

The Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Watts, *et al.* Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested, as Watts, *et al.* fails to disclose each and every element as recited in this claim.

The claimed subject matter relates generally to aggregation of search results based upon commonality amongst one or more features associated with at least a subset of such results. For instance, if an individual were searching an electronic television program directory for a particular television program, multiple instances of such program may be returned. Rather than displaying each instance, the multiple instances can be aggregated so as to be represented by a single symbol based upon title of the television program. Additionally, the single symbol can be expandable based upon selection of a different feature. To that end, claim 1 recites a *processor being configured to generate display data including multiple symbols corresponding to... search results such that ones of said search results having a same value of... a first feature are displayed as a single symbol, said ones of said search results are expandable such that symbols that represent each of said ones are displayed upon receipt of a user selection of said single symbol.* Watts, *et al.* fails to disclose such claimed features.

Watts, *et al.* relates generally to searching through a database without requiring a user to employ logical operators between search terms. More specifically, Watts, *et al.* describes an interface that allows a user to intuitively search through multiple television listings by “dragging and dropping” one or more pre-defined search terms into a search region on a graphical user interface. If more than one search term is selected (*e.g.*, a name of a program and a date), the system described in the cited reference automatically inserts logical operators therebetween. Figure 2 of Watts, *et al.*, which was cited by the

Examiner, illustrates that each search result (television programs) associated with the date 10/4/94 is listed separately and not *displayed as a single symbol* as claimed.

Additionally, claim 1 recites that *search results are expandable such that symbols that represent each of said ones are displayed upon receipt of a user selection of said single symbol*. Watts, *et al.* is silent with regard to aggregating or expanding search results based upon commonality with respect to a first feature and/or selection of a symbol that that is representative of multiple search results, and thus fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-5 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Alexander, *et al.* As Alexander, *et al.* fails to disclose each and every element of the invention as claimed, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 1

Alexander, *et al.* relates generally to electronic programming guides that enable a user to visually traverse through a listing of programs, select one or more programs for recording, lock one or more programs, provide password protection to one or more programs, and various other functionalities. Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a *processor being configured to generate display data including multiple symbols corresponding to... search results such that ones of said search results having a same value of... a first feature are displayed as a single symbol, wherein said ones of said search results are expandable such that symbols that represent each of said ones are displayed upon receipt of a user selection of said single symbol*. Alexander, *et al.* is silent with respect to these features. With more particularity, Figure 3 of Alexander, *et al.* discloses a television listing, wherein multiple programs are displayed for a certain channel over a period of time. It is readily apparent, however, that the multiple programs (search results) are displayed individually, and thus are not *displayed as a single symbol* as claimed. Moreover, as Alexander, *et al.* is deficient with respect to disclosing multiple

search results being displayed as a single symbol, Alexander, *et al.* cannot disclose that the search results are expandable upon receipt of a user selection of the single symbol.

Claim 10

Claim 10, as amended, recites *a processor being configured to selectively aggregate a subset of said search results with commonality with respect to the first feature such that the subset of said search results are depicted through use of a single symbol, said subset being expandable such that symbols representing each search result within the subset are displayed together with the single symbol given user selection of said single symbol.* Alexander, *et al.* is silent with respect to these claimed features. Rather, as described above, Figure 3 of Alexander, *et al.* illustrates that search results associated with a particular channel are individually displayed, and, in contrast to the invention as claimed, are not depicted through use of a single symbol. Moreover, Alexander, *et al.* nowhere discloses that search results depicted through use of a single symbol are expandable given user selection of the single symbol, much less that symbols representing each search result are displayed together with the single symbol upon user selection of the single symbol.

Claims 2-5, 8-9, and 11-14

It is submitted that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their respective base claims.

The Rejection of Claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Florin, *et al.* Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested as Florin, *et al.* fails to disclose each and every element as recited in the subject claims as amended.

Claim 15

Claim 15 recites *receiving user data indicating a second feature about which to consolidate search results, wherein said search results are obtained through utilization of a textual query, identifying search results having same values of said first feature and said second feature, generating a display such that each of said search results having said same values is depicted by a single symbol; and expanding said each of said search results such that additional information about said each is displayed in response to said single symbol being indicated by a user.* Florin, *et al.* fails to disclose each and every element recited in this claim.

Florin, *et al.* generally describes an audio-visual transceiver that is utilized as a communications device between a service provider and an audio/video device (such as a television). The transceiver enables a user to view programs offered by a service provider, purchase pay-per view program listings, and other functionality commonly associated with today's audio-visual transceivers. In Figs. 22 and 29 (and associated text), Florin, *et al.* teaches that programs of certain subjects can be pre-categorized in a hierarchical manner, such that a user can quickly and easily locate programs of a subject of interest. For example, a baseball game can be categorized generally under "sports" and more particularly under "baseball." Through depression of a "sports" icon, the user can be provided with icons associated with several sports. Thereafter, as shown in Fig. 29, the user can select a "baseball" icon and be provided with broadcast events that are associated with baseball.

It is submitted that Figure 22 and 29 (and associated text) fail to disclose, teach, or suggest *receiving user data indicating a first feature about which to consolidate search results* as recited in the subject claim. Rather, with respect to the disclosure of Florin, *et al.*, when user data is received such data is solely utilized to expand a category to display more detailed sub-categories, program listings, or both sub-categories and program listings. With still more specificity, the Examiner cites Figure 22 and col. 18 lines 11-15 as disclosing the aforementioned claimed features. It is readily apparent, however, that received user data received is employed to select a category for expansion, such as a "favorites" category, a "movies" category, a "sports" category, a "news"

category, and a “music video” category. Upon selection of the “favorites” category, for example, a user’s favorite programs and/or channels may be provided to a user. Thus, user data is employed to expand a category and not utilized to *consolidate search results* as claimed. Moreover, programs within the categories are not *search results obtained through utilization of a textual query* as claimed. Rather, they are categorized by a service provider and/or a user (*e.g.*, a user categorizes a television program as a “favorite”). Therefore, applicants’ representative submits that, as these claimed features are not disclosed by Florin, *et al.*, the cited reference fails to anticipate the invention as claimed.

Claim 16

It is submitted that this claim is allowable at least by virtue of its respective base claim.

Claim 17

Claim 17 depends on independent claim 15, and in addition to the arguments provided above, Florin, *et al.* fails to disclose that *the first feature and said second feature include at least one of title, time, date, channel, and episode of a program event* as recited. More particularly, claim 17 further limits claim 15 by indicating that several search results are displayed as a single symbol if the search results have two or more of a title, time, date, channel, and episode in common with one another. In contrast, in Fig. 29, Florin, *et al.* discloses that a television listing can display a title of a program. While the displayed program in Fig. 29 is associated with a title, time, date, and channel, such features are clearly not utilized to aggregate search results such that they are depicted by a single symbol as claimed.

The Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander, *et al.* in view of Young, *et al.* Young, *et al.* relates to a system and method

for displaying television programs on a screen. Young, *et al.* like Alexander, *et al.*, however, fails to disclose a *processor being configured to generate display data including multiple symbols corresponding to... search results such that ones of said search results having a same value of... a first feature are displayed as a single symbol, said ones of said search results are expandable such that symbols that represent each of said ones are displayed upon receipt of a user selection of said single symbol.* Thus, it is believed that claim 1 (from which this claim depends) is in condition for allowance, rendering this rejection moot.

The Rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander, *et al.* in view of Young, *et al.* and further in view of Allport. The Examiner contends that Allport discloses that *said ones may be selectively aggregated about chosen second features* as recited in this claim, and specifically cites Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 35-40 in support of such contention. This conclusion is respectfully traversed. Allport teaches that a television grid can be arranged such that only television programs according to a certain category (*e.g.*, comedy) are displayed. Like Alexander, *et al.*, however, the cited Figure of Allport teaches that each search result is listed separately and not *aggregated such that they are displayed as a single symbol* as recited in claim 1 (from which the subject claim depends). Therefore, it is readily apparent that Allport fails to teach or suggest that search results are aggregated based upon both first and second chosen features as claimed. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claim 18

Claim 18 has been newly added, is dependent upon claim 15, and recites that *the textual query is for a program title.* Florin, *et al.* (and other references cited in this

action) fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such claimed aspects. Rather, Florin, *et al.* describes graphically traversing through categories to locate a program of interest, such as by depressing a “sports” icon followed by depressing a “football” icon (to locate programming related to football). Florin, *et al.*, however, is silent with respect to searching for a program through a textual query, much less searching for such program by title as claimed.

Claim 19

Claim 19 has been newly added, is dependent upon claim 1, and recites that *the processor is configured to expand said each of said search results in a hierarchical manner in response to said single symbol being indicated by said user*. In contrast, Alexander, *et al.* and Watts, *et al.* illustrate television listings that are displayed based upon channel and time in a grid-like fashion. It is apparent, however, that neither of these references disclose, teach, or suggest hierarchically displaying search results upon selection of a symbol that is representative of the aforementioned search results. Thus, claim 19 is believed to be patentably distinct over Alexander, *et al.*, Watts, *et al.*, or a combination thereof.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-19 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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